

LESS PAY IN MANY LINES; FEWER JOBS

Department of Labor Sees Return to Normalcy in Every Industry.

STEEL MEN HIT HARD

Workers for 116 Firms Decreased From 188,958 to 143,228 in Year.

BIG WAGE CUT IN MOTORS

Automobile and Textile Manufacturing Show Increased Employment.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Washington, D. C., May 1.

Readjustment of wage scales to lower levels is in progress in fourteen of the principal manufacturing industries of the United States. Official data compiled by the Department of Labor and other agencies in Washington indicate that the return to normalcy so far as wages is concerned has reached into every industrial center of the nation and into virtually all its industries.

The movement to lower wage levels is accompanied by a continued shrinkage in the total volume of employment. That condition is not so far spread as that affecting wages. While it extends to all industrial centers, some of the industries, notably automotive and textile, are showing a trend toward increasing employment.

Detailed payrolls figures for thirteen manufacturing industries and bituminous coal mining have been tabulated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics up to the end of February. March figures are now being worked out. They show in general the same trend as those for February. Announcement of the results will be made in a day or two.

In 116 representative firms in the iron and steel industry the number of employees on the payroll dropped from 188,958 in February, 1920, to 143,228 in February, 1921. Virtually one-fourth of the employees in these plants were dropped and not replaced during the year. The slash came last fall and winter, however, when industry began to lag.

Payroll is Cut a Third.

The payroll in these 116 establishments showed a cut of one-third, dropping from \$13,892,294 to \$9,274,639, during the year. The drop in total payroll of 33.2 per cent, as compared with a drop in the number of employees of 24.5 per cent, indicates a wage cut of 12 per cent, for the year.

In February employment in 114 iron and steel plants increased almost 1 per cent over January, but wages dropped more than 5 per cent, showing a slowing up in unemployment but a higher rate of wage reduction. Employment service figures for March this year indicate a greater amount of unemployment in March than in February.

In 44 representative establishments in the automotive industry the number of men on the payroll decreased 41.3 per cent, or from 157,180 in February, 1920, to 92,302 in February, 1921. The payroll shrank from \$10,663,400 to \$5,288,248, a decrease of 50.4 per cent. This would indicate a drop in wages of some what like 40 per cent in the year.

Employment in the automobile line increased in February over January in this year, and March figures show an even greater increase. They also showed an increase in the average wage for the month in the establishments represented.

Employment held up in the cotton manufacturing industry during the year, but wages decreased 16 per cent. Fifty-four representative establishments showed the same number on the payroll for the two Februaries, but a shrinkage in the amount of payroll from \$1,039,144 to \$871,396. In contrast to this employment and wages went down together in sixteen cotton finishing plants. The number of persons on the payrolls decreased 16 per cent, while the amount of payroll decreased 17.7 per cent.

Hosiery and Underwear Halved.

The decline in hosiery and underwear establishments was more marked. The volume of employment shrank 44.2 per cent, in sixty establishments, while in the same concerns the payroll shrank 51.3 per cent.

In fifty-two representative establishments in the woolen industry the number employed dropped from 51,150 to 23,185, a decrease of 54.7 per cent, while the payroll shrank 45.8 per cent, from \$1,279,027 to \$693,199.

The silk industry showed an almost identical result, though the decrease was not so large. Employees decreased 21 per cent, and wages 25.6 per cent.

During the one year period a shrinkage of 26.8 per cent occurred in employment in 46 establishments and a shrinkage in payroll in the same establishments of 36.3 per cent.

All textile industries showed increased employment in February over January, with a resulting increase in total wage. The average wage for the month decreased.

In the leather industry thirty-four establishments reported a decline of 55.3 per cent in employment and 44.3 per cent in wages paid. Employment increased slightly during the month but wages showed a further decline.

The boot and shoe industry followed the general trend in leather.

In paper making, car building and the tobacco industry the general result was the same. Employment decreased and wages decreased in greater ratio than employment.

Declines Shown in March.

March figures compiled by the employment service show small but consistent decreases in employment in the iron and steel and related industries, in miscellaneous industries, in metal products, in paper and printing, in food and kindred products, in stone, clay and glass products, in chemicals and allied products, in textile and their products and in railroad repair shops.

Employment increased in the automotive industry, the tobacco industry, in leather and its finished products, in liquor and beverages, in lumber and its manufactures.

Employment decreased in forty-four cities during the month, but increased slightly in twenty other cities. In Detroit employment increased for the month by 25,671, due to the big pickup in automobile building.

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600 GAIR PRINTERS WORK 6 EXTRA HOURS AT OLDPAY

Weekly Schedule of 48 Hours Advanced to 54 With No Grumbling or Change in Wages as Part in Readjustment in Peace Conditions.

All employees of the Robert Gair Company, one of the largest printing and lithographing establishments in the city, have voluntarily decided to work fifty-four hours a week instead of forty-eight without a cent's increase in pay. Between 500 and 600 employees in all departments are affected by this decision.

Robert Gair, who founded this company in 1864, when he was mustered out of the Union army, said last night at his home, 120 New York avenue, Brooklyn, that the employees, men and women alike, apparently were satisfied with their decision to help the company through as long a period as may be necessary and to take their share of the losses without grumbling. The general offices of the company are at 30 Washington street, Brooklyn.

"The men have gone to work fifty-four hours a week, with no increase in pay in order to keep the wheels turning," said Mr. Gair. "There is not a

union man in the shop from top to bottom and there never has been a union there since I started the establishment sixty years ago."

Mr. Gair, who now serves as chairman of the board while his son, George Gair, has the position of president, explained that the company manufactures both the raw material and the finished goods. It operates six paper mills and has its own device, printing and foundry works. The company, he said, has been growing steadily ever since it was started.

Referring to the union printers in job printing establishments all over the country who are threatening to tie up the industry to-morrow unless their demands of a forty-four hour week are granted, Mr. Gair said:

"Those men and all men like them are fighting a losing battle, and the sooner they come to realize it the better off this country will be. Increased production is the only salvation for employers and workers alike."

SHIPPING NOT YET INTERRUPTED HERE

Continued from First Page.

many sailings have to be postponed on account of it.

It was predicted in some quarters yesterday that the unions would make another attempt to-day to arrange for further negotiations with the owners, possibly with a view to arbitration. The one big weakness of the men—the fact that such a large percentage of them already have been thrown out of employment by the decrease in shipping—may prove to be the deciding factor in the controversy. The head of one of the largest shipping companies in the city, who asked that his name should not be used in connection with the situation last night as follows:

"Shipping is not and will not be seriously hampered by the strike. The men in general are not in sympathy with the uncompromising attitude of the leaders, who have done all this on their own initiative. The steamship companies are losing a good deal of money right now, and while the employees have sense enough to know that a cut of 15 per cent, is very small indeed under present shipping conditions."

He added that his company and all others that had knowledge of would go ahead to fill whatever vacancies may occur with new men. He said, however, that preference would be given to old employees who wanted to sign under the new scale.

Spokesmen of the unions, insisting that the correct term is "lockout," said that the men would sign articles for the voyage on all vessels paying the old scale and operating under the old working conditions. No attempt will be made to picket vessels now in port, they said, unless the companies place strike-breakers on board. They said that 20,000 seamen and 10,000 officers and firemen would leave ships in this port in the next twenty-four hours.

The order for a walkout has been flashed by wireless to the crews of American ships now at sea, but as the men on board are signed for a complete voyage at the old scale of pay these ships cannot be affected until they come back to port.

Ships That Sailed Yesterday.

The four privately owned American vessels which left this port yesterday were the *Rago*, a tank ship, bound for Providence, R. I.; the *Naugus*, a steamship, for Chicago; the *Ampetco*, a tanker, bound for Antwerp; and the *Sintram*, a steamer, for Philadelphia and New Orleans.

The five Shipping Board steamships were the *Plow City*, bound for Copenhagen; and *Reval*; the *Chickamauga*, bound for Sweden; the *Coosmo*, the *Eastern Belle*, bound for Cork and Dublin; the *West Galatia*, bound for Norfolk; and the *Inevitable*, bound for Rotterdam. The ships due to leave to-day are the *Eastern Crown*, a Shipping Board vessel; the *Miskiana*, a tanker, and the *City of St. Louis*, which is due to leave for Savannah, Ga. Ships due in port to-day are the *Coosmo*, the *Eastern Belle*, the *Comus* and the *Fort Hamilton*.

For a week at least shipping will be tight. Both the prospect of a strike and the fact that a comparatively small amount of shipping is going on are said to be responsible for this. With little shipping, and with so much unemployment, the operators argue that they must be able to send their vessels to sea with the minimum of delay.

At a late hour last night Andrew Furuseth, international president of the Seamen's Union, had not returned to Washington, where he was the chief spokesman for the unions in the conferences with Admiral Benson. He suggested that the controversy be left to President Harding for arbitration, but the owners refused. Mr. Furuseth's associates said last night that he probably was waiting in Washington in the hope that other conferences looking toward arbitration might be arranged.

MARINE MEN AWAIT ACTION BY PRESIDENT

Hoover and Davis May Arrange for Commission.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—While reports to both the Shipping Board and representatives of the marine workers here today indicated that some workers were walking out rather than accept the board's wage cut of 15 per cent, which became effective at midnight last night, Secretary Davis conferred with union heads of the wage controversy, which threatens a general tie-up of shipping at Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf ports, but without apparent definite result. Inasmuch as the unions have requested that a wage commission be appointed by direction of President Harding to adjust the dispute and Shipping Board officials have said they would follow the wishes of the President, it was said tonight that the next move would perhaps come from the same source.

Some confusion was apparent to-night regarding the appointment of a commission by direction of the President to decide the controversy as requested by the union heads. At the White House it was reiterated that the matter had been placed by the President entirely in the hands of Secretary Davis and Hoover. At the Department of Labor, however, it was said that Secretary Davis had not been so informed by the President, and it was indicated that the matter was still in the hands of the President, so far as the appointment of a commission was concerned. Secretary Hoover, Commerce Department officials said, has as yet taken no steps in the matter. Union heads declared that they also were without information as to what action the President had taken in response to their request.

While orders for a 15 per cent wage cut were issued Friday after the marine workers' refusal to accept Chairman Benson's proposals for a new wage agreement, Shipping Board officials declared the final adjustment of the controversy would await any action President Harding might take. So far, board officials stated, few ships have been held in port because of the men refusing to sign at the reduced wage.

John J. Davis, head of the marine labor problem having been placed in the hands of Secretaries Davis and Hoover, according to White House statements, it was believed that the Labor Department would select a third party to be preparatory to selection of a wage commission. Selection of a third party by the two Secretaries to serve with them as a board, it was said, would take the requirements of the union's request.

ARGUMENT OVER GIRL LEADS TO KILLING

Teamster Shot Through the Heart in Presence of 20.

George Corcoran, a young teamster, of 219 West Seventeenth street, was talking to two men at Sixteenth street and Eighth avenue yesterday when a third man joined the party. Corcoran and the newcomer exchanged a few words about a young woman who appeared to be favored by both men. Then the stranger produced a revolver and jamming it against Corcoran's chest, fired twice.

At least twenty persons saw the shooting. Corcoran fell and his assailant fled. The New York Hospital it was said both bullets pierced Corcoran's heart and that his death had been almost instantaneous. Not long after the shooting, Henry Page, 20 years old, 253 West Twentieth street, was taken to the West Twentieth street police station by detectives and there, the latter said, he died. He and one William Grubb, who lives in the same house with him, were with Corcoran when the latter was killed. He gave the police a description of the slayer.

POLICEMAN BURNED RESCUING AN INFANT

Two Firemen Injured at Tenement House Blaze.

Five patrolmen helped dwellers out of a tenement at 101 West 136th street on a Saturday night when fire started on the second floor stairway and burned through to the roof. Patrolman Hyman Rosenberg of the West 136th street station burned his face and hands rescuing Chaya Lefornis, aged 2, from a fourth floor room as they fled through a passageway. Patrolman John Tuohy carried out the child's sister Alice and Jeanette Colvargovich. Fireman Robert Montgomery of Hook and Ladder 20 fell through a paneled stairway on the fifth floor and received severe bruises. He and Fireman John Metz, a member of the same company, were taken to Harlem Hospital. Metz fell off the truck on the way to the fire and was badly cut.

DINNER TO C. M. SCHWAB.

A testimonial dinner to Charles A. Schwab will be given by his former associates in the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the shipbuilders, owners and operators of the country, in the Waldorf, Friday evening. Charles Piez of Chicago will speak for the Emergency Fleet Corporation. W. A. Thompson of the Texas Company, for the American Shipowners Association, and Homer L. Ferguson of Norfolk for the shipbuilders.

WANTS LABOR SUIT-PROOF.

BOSTON, May 1.—The Boston Central Labor Union to-day instructed its president and business agent to call upon Gov. Cox at the State House and request him to veto the bill recently passed by the Legislature which would permit suits by and against voluntary associations.

UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS GAIN.

CHICAGO, May 1.—According to figures from thirty industries, from pins to automobiles, involving 600 firms, there were 245,000 persons employed in the seventh federal reserve district on April 1, as against 270,000 on the same date last year.

TURN back a page and see the hundreds of Want Ads. in to-day's Herald. Something there to interest YOU.—Adv.

BRIBE ASKED FOR IN METER APPEAL

Continued from First Page.

when he appeared before the committee of the Board of Aldermen that had the resolution under consideration and was asked if he ever had been asked for money by any member of the board in connection with the case, he replied that he had not been solicited by any member of the board. He emphasized the words "any member of the board," then added that the question stopped there.

Later yesterday, when he had been assured that confirmation of the report would not interfere with Mr. Untermyer's plans, Mr. Cetti consented to its publication.

Mr. Untermyer's letter to Mayor Hylan covers five typewritten pages. In it counsel to the committee sets forth that the circumstances surrounding Mr. Cetti's failure to obtain the approval of the Board of Aldermen for his cheaper meter had been known to the Mayor for at least fifteen months; that the Mayor's expressed reason for his veto of the legislative bill, designed to bring about what the Aldermen would not, "is worse than no reason," and in conclusion he calls upon the Mayor to send a special message to the Board of Aldermen urging passage of the blocked resolution as a "plain and long neglected duty."

After reviewing the history of Mr. Cetti's long fight to get approval for his meter, Mr. Untermyer takes up the Mayor's veto of the Legislature's bill. His letter in part follows:

"Your statement on the subject published in Friday morning's papers contains the following assertion, which is unsupported by anything in the record or elsewhere and which you have put forward as the ostensible reason for issuing the statement: 'Mr. Untermyer was quoted by the press as making the statement before the Lockwood committee that Mayor Hylan had vetoed the Lockwood bill designed to break up a graft taking and extorting monopoly.'"

Denies Reported Statement.

"I made no such statement and was not at any time or place so quoted in the newspapers or elsewhere. I made no comment of any kind on the subject. It is my invariable rule to make no remarks on the evidence or proceedings before the committee. The sworn testimony and documents must speak for themselves. In this case the letters that passed between Mr. Cetti and yourself and your veto of the bill that was designed to grant the urgently needed relief told their own story and required no comment or explanation."

"Permit me to suggest that the reason Mr. Cetti assigns for having disapproved the bill is worse than no reason in view of the fact that you were long ago made familiar with the persistent and extraordinary action of the Board of Aldermen in this case. I am sure that you would not use in New York city without pretense of rhyme or reason, after it had undergone all the necessary tests by the city authorities."

"The testimony before the legislative committee discloses that among the many peculiar performances accompanying this remarkable transaction either the minutes of the Aldermen's committee or the docket of the Board of Aldermen were juggled so as to have it appear to the Board of Aldermen when the resolution came to it from its committee for action that it was recommended by the committee without recommendation when in fact it had been favorably recommended by the committee without dissent."

"Now that you have by your action destroyed the opportunity afforded by the Legislature for the relief of the citizens of this city from this monopoly may I suggest that if you are disposed to be helpful in relieving the property owners and householders of the city and those now engaged in constructing houses from the incredible situation thus created, you have the opportunity of doing it without further delay by promptly transmitting to the Board of Aldermen a message urging the approval of the action of the Board of Water Supply and the Chief Engineer in permitting the Badger Water Meter Company to sell its meters in competition with those of the city."

"The combination known as the Water Meter Manufacturers' Exchange, who now alone enjoy that privilege."

Urges Action by Mayor.

"If it is the point of view of the majority of the members of the Board of Aldermen that it is consistent with their official oaths to defeat a confessedly disjunct project in the city's interest that has been recommended by their own committee and by the city authorities without a dissenting voice because one of the members of the board has in the course of discussion questioned the motives of his fellow members, it is high time that our citizens should be made acquainted with this novel and fantastic conception of public duty."

"It is unbelievable that the govern-

ment of our city has fallen to such a low estate that its official governing body will dare persist in such an attitude. If the Chief Magistrate of the city will call their attention to the facts and will urge upon them the performance of their plain and long neglected duty. This is what I now respectfully ask you to do, especially in view of your veto of the bill that would have granted relief."

How a ruling of the Corporation Counsel has operated to the disadvantage of the taxpayers also was explained yesterday. There are two distinct types of water meters in use in New York. One is known as the positive displacement, or disc meter, which registers every drop of water used, and the larger, propeller or velocity type, installed in large buildings.

There is, however, a newer type of meter that combines both principles. When the pressure passes a certain point the propeller principle again is invoked automatically in place of the disc, with the result that at no time is there any flow not registered. This meter is in use in several of the large cities of the country, but despite its universal satisfaction, it is not in use in New York. The reason given is that the manufacturers have been discouraged by the procedure necessary to get approval by the Board of Aldermen. To get around this some time ago, it was learned, they sought to have the new meter approved automatically because the two principles employed have been individually sanctioned, but the Corporation Counsel's office held that this could not follow.

How Saving Could Be Made.

The saving it is claimed would accrue to New York taxpayers through its adoption is because of the "lost" water in the quantity of water, when a small quantity of water, not enough to register, passes through for several hours. What this might amount to is shown from the fact that, with average pressure of forty pounds, 170 gallons of water would pass through an office one thirty-second of a day. In a business district of forty hours, 270 gallons through a leak of one-sixteenth of an inch, while a hole an eighth of an inch would let 3,600 gallons escape registering every day.

In large office buildings or apartments, it was pointed out, where there might be fifty or a hundred tiny streams of water from faucets every night, the aggregate volume not registered on a large meter might be enormous. The proof of this theory, manufacturers of the improved meter say, is seen in the fact that New York city is using approximately 130 gallons per capita per day, of which somewhere between one-fifth and one-quarter is supplied from pumping stations at Croton and on Long Island.

PRINTERS ON STRIKE, HALTING NEWSPAPERS

Chambersburg Union Trying to Get 44 Hour Week.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 1.—Members of the local typographical union went on strike to-day in an effort to force the granting of their demand for a forty-four hour week. As a result of the strike, it was announced, two of the city's daily newspapers, the *Public Opinion*, morning, and the *Valley Spirit*, afternoon, will not be issued to-morrow, while the other, the *Franklin Repository*, will appear in curtailed form. All three newspapers have adopted the "open shop."

PRINTERS TO GO OUT IF PLAN IS REFUSED

Authorized to Strike if Demand Is Not Granted.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 1.—Local unions of the International Typographical Union will be authorized to call strikes to-morrow in the cities where employers have not agreed to the forty-four hour week, according to Walter W. Barrett, vice-president of the union.

Mr. Barrett said some two hundred and fifty subordinate unions already have signed the new contracts with local employers associations. In this number are included those in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

44 HR. DISPUTE HALTS PAPERS.

BUTLER, Pa., May 1.—The Butler Citizen and the Butler Eagle, morning and afternoon papers respectively, announced to-night that there will be no Monday issue because of the decision of the union printers not to work until the forty-four hour week controversy is settled.

UP-STATE MAKERS OF PAPER TO STRIKE

1,000 Men in Three Plants of International Co. Refuse 30 Per Cent. Cut.

ALBANY, May 1.—One thousand men employed in the plants of the International Paper Company at Glens Falls, Corinth and Fort Edward will walk out to-morrow as the result of their refusal to accept a 30 per cent. cut in wages. The day forces quit when the mills closed last night. This is the first move in the strike which threatens to tie up 75 per cent of the papermaking plants of the country. The paper manufacturers also have increased the working day from eight to nine hours and abolished the paying of overtime at a time and a half rate.

The mills that have agreements expiring to-day are the ones affected. Other companies have contracts expiring May 11, and they also may suffer a strike at that time. Among them are the plant of the Finch Pruyn Company at Glens Falls and the Union Bag and Paper Company at Hudson Falls. If no settlement is reached the strike will spread to plants that employ 25,000 men in the United States and Canada.

Union men are still hopeful of a settlement of the trouble. J. T. Carey, president of the Brotherhood of Paper Makers, was in Glens Falls to-day conferred with officials of the Finch Pruyn Company, which employs 800 men. The hopes of the men were raised to-day when it was announced that the Grand Lake Bag Company of Corning, N. Y., had agreed to operate its plant at the present scale of wages for another year. Mr. Carey, when he returned to Albany to-night, said that several of the smaller concerns in New York had agreed to continue the present scale. These include the Neura Company at Huxley, N. Y., and the Schenck River Company at Warrensburg.

'BIG SIX' FIXES TIME 44 HOUR WEEK BEGINS

First Fiscal Date After May 1 Is Decided Upon.

Members of Typographical Union No. 6, known among printers as "Big Six," held a special meeting yesterday afternoon at Yorkville Casino, Eighty-sixth street and Third avenue, and voted in favor of letting the new forty-four hour week begin with this first fiscal date after May 1. This action is expected to insure the inauguration of the shorter week without friction.

The discussion centered about the question of whether the new schedule should begin the first fiscal week or on the May 1. The men said that the contract with the employers, if interpreted strictly, would put the schedule into effect on May 1, but they decided to follow a more liberal interpretation.

Shops whose fiscal week begins on Saturday are the only exception. The schedule becomes operative in them from April 30.

BINGHAMTON, May 1.—Newspapers and publishing concerns here are operating with a normal output, all their positions being filled by non-union men. To-day is the date fixed by the printers who struck March 8 for a forty-four hour week and an increase in wages of \$1.60 a week when their test fight would be won and they would be back at work under the union scale.

Of the 140 strikers only three have returned to work. Twenty-five per cent of them have obtained work in other cities.

MAINE PAPER PLANTS CLOSE.

LEWISTON, Me., May 1.—The International Paper Company plants in Livermore Falls and Chisholm, employing 800 men in the Rumford plant are not expected to report for work to-morrow. Employees of the Oxford Paper Company mill at Rumford have accepted a 20 per cent reduction in wages.

THERE is often just the position you want or the kind of help you are looking for at the Employment Agencies using Herald Want Ads. See Classified Section.—Adv.

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